



TIPSS-2 NEWS & TIDBITS

Volume 1, Issue 1
May 2002

Welcome to TIPSS-2's First Issue!

Welcome to your first issue of the new TIPSS-2 newsletter. As one of our new customer service activities for you, we will publish this quarterly newsletter to bring you up-to-date information on current events, Government regulations, and the federal Information Technology (IT) legislation that relates to the TIPSS-2 Program as well as to your IT investments.

This first newsletter is focused primarily on IRS issues, but future newsletters will address issues affecting all of our Treasury Bureau customers. To ensure that TIPSS-2 is your No. 1 choice for procuring IT services, we welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions, and we will print our responses here.

Sara Schroerlucke, Chief, TIPSS Branch
James W. Barber, Chief, Tax Systems
Administration Branch

TIPSS-2 Upcoming Events

Forum for Managers of COTRs

Date: July 17, 2002
Time: 8:30 –11:45
Place: NCFB, Room B1-303
Contact: Stephanie Donahue, 202-283-6939

COTR Forum

Date: July 23, 2002
Time: 8:30-11:45
Place: NCFB Auditorium
Contact: Eddie Ragland, 202-283-7554

Annual TIPSS-2 Symposium for Executives

Date: July 30, 2002
Time: 9:00-3:00
Contact: Sara Schroerlucke, 202-283-7179

Section 508 Standards: Some How-to and When-to Clarifications

For all IRS or Treasury Bureau Task Orders awarded under the TIPSS-2 contracts by IRS procurement, you must complete a Section 508 Determination and Findings (D&F) for Purchase Requests.

This form will help you determine whether or not your procurement requirements are subject to Section 508. Your division director must sign the appropriate certification line on the form. If you have not requested IT-related deliverables or work products under your task, complete the certification for Section 1 and skip the rest of the form. An example of non-IT work would be an analysis of business processes that ends in the delivery of a report.

If your D&F indicates the deliverables and/or work products requested under your task are IT-related and will be Section 508 compliant, Section 6 applies. Otherwise, your division director must sign off on one of the exceptions for either non-commercial availability or undue burden and attach the appropriate form.

All forms and documentation must be submitted to Procurement before your task can be awarded.

For additional information on Section 508, please visit the Information Resources Accessibility Program's web site at: <http://irap.no.irs.gov>, or e-mail your questions to 508@irs.gov.



IRS Delegation Order 28 IRM 2.21: What It Means to You

On November 14, 2001, Deputy Commissioner for Modernization/Chief Information Officer John C. Reece signed Delegation Order 28 (DO 28) and associated Interim IRM 2.21.

This means that as of Feb. 4, 2002, DO 28 moves signature authority to approve information technology (IT) goods or services purchases to senior Modernization, Information Technology and Security Services (MITSS) executives. Interim IRM 2.21 defines the required approvals and documentation for IT goods and services acquisitions.

The new process provides the IRS with several benefits. First, it clarifies what is required to acquire IT services, thereby improving the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the reviews. It allows some reviews and approvals to take place simultaneously outside of the Request Tracking System (RTS), which can reduce processing time.

Finally, the new Requisition Summary attachment to RTS electronically provides all of the information needed to approve a requisition. The Requisition Summary attachment preserves IT process documentation.

Obtain additional information about DO 28 and Interim IRM 2.21 by viewing the materials at the web site:

http://mits.web.irs.gov/M_ProceduresGuidelinesStandards/ProcsGuidesStandards_DelegationOrders.htm. Sign up on the web site to receive email updates about ongoing process improvements. Address any questions by e-mail to [*ALCHELPDESK@irs.org](mailto:ALCHELPDESK@irs.org).

For TIPSS-2 Solutions, call 202-283-1110

E-Mail: tipss@irs.gov

Intranet: <http://awss.procurement.irs.gov/tipss2>

Check out the Internet:

<http://www.procurement.irs.treas.gov/tipss2>

IRS Update: New System Certification Process Software

IRS is placing increased importance on ensuring privacy and security of taxpayer information and on delivering services that meet the highest standards of public trust. The Certification Program Office (M:S:A) has re-engineered and automated the Certification and Accreditation (C&A) process using Xacta Web C&A software to meet these goals. The new process directly addresses how the IRS will conduct, manage and maintain certification and accreditation much more consistently, cost-effectively and efficiently.

Xacta Web C&A is the Web-based enterprise-wide application used to automate C&A in accordance with National Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (NIACAP) programs. Using this application, the IRS will focus on certifying security systems for:

- Hardware,
- COTS,
- Operating systems, and
- All platform applications.

The new application will also determine vulnerabilities and assess network and system configuration compliance with agreed-upon security requirements.

The IRS has an enterprise subscription of Xacta Web C&A. Under the agreement, the IRS will have unlimited access to Xacta Web C&A to certify and accredit IRS systems and networks enterprise-wide.

To obtain additional information on the C&A process, visit the Security web site at <http://infosec.web.irs.gov/C&A.htm>

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published by the TIPSS-2 Program Office, a partnership of acquisition professionals and Contracting Officers.

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Please e-mail your news & tidbits to tipss@irs.gov

NIH CPS' Centralization Supports More Accurate, Faster TIPSS-2 Evaluations

Centralization of the National Institute of Health (NIH) Contractor Performance System (CPS) is increasing accuracy of data collection and reducing the time needed to complete and enter contractor evaluations.

We are currently finalizing the evaluations for the rating period of July 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

Information collected includes contractor:

- Achievements in performance and submitting deliverables,
- Quality of services and deliverable products,
- Ability to control costs of the project and/or services, and
- Ability to manage the programs or projects to ensure desired results.

Once completed, notification is sent to the contractors for their response.

The NIH CPS makes the contractor evaluations, including contractors' responses to the evaluations, available to other federal agencies. The data is used to help Government Procurement Offices in their selection processes, by using the NIH CPS information as past performance indicators.

If you would like more information on how TIPSS-2 gathers and uses this information, contact Diana Linkous at (202) 283-5842 or diana.e.linkous@irs.gov.

Definitive Customer Satisfaction Survey to Come Soon

Technical Contract Management (TCM), the parent organization of the Lead COTRs and Requirements Development Team, has developed a definitive customer satisfaction survey to benchmark customer satisfaction levels with TCM services.

The survey will be an indicator that will show us how we can improve our service to you, our customer. TCM will repeat the same survey each year to monitor the success of our improvement activities.

You can expect to see this survey in the next few months. It is anonymous and will take little time. With your contributions, we can continue to find ways to improve our support to you.

Congratulations

Joyce Powell

TIPSS Team Player of the Quarter

Debbie Smith

TIPSS S.T.A.R. Performer of the Quarter

TIPSS-2 Points of Contact

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